



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HAMPTON
SIXTEENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 5007
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
E-MAIL: JOHN.HAMPTON@cga.ct.gov

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

VICE-CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

MEMBER
AGING COMMITTEE
BANKING COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Testimony of State Representative John Hampton, 16th District, in Support of:

SB 681 AN ACT CONCERNING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCY EMPLOYEES

Public Health Committee Public Hearing
Monday, February 23, 2015, 10:30am
Room 1D

Chairman Ritter, Chairman Gerratana, Members of the Public Health Committee, for the record my name is John Hampton, State Representative for Simsbury's 16th District and I am here to testify in support of SB 681 AN ACT CONCERNING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCY EMPLOYEES.

I would like to thank the committee for holding a hearing on this bill and the opportunity to submit testimony here today. I had introduced very similar legislation, HB 6274 AN ACT CONCERNING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCY EMPLOYEES, which would have also required comprehensive background checks for home health agency employees. That is why I am full support of the legislation before us here today and fully applaud the Public Health Committee efforts to bring attention to this very important issue that affects our most vulnerable of citizens and their families.

One thing I would suggest for the committee to consider is that my legislation would have gone one step further and require that home health agencies make available to the public a review of any employee criminal history and disciplinary record from previous places of employment. I believe having this information provided is essential for families to have in order to make informed decisions of how to best care for their loved ones.

Too often we read about or possibly know of a circumstance where an elderly person or even a family member who is elderly has suffered from abuse, neglect or has become a victim of other crimes including theft, while in the care of nursing home staff or some other type of home healthcare staff. In fact, the Bureau of Justice's National Center on Elder Abuse estimates that the percentage for the elderly that will suffer some type of abuse is at 9.5 percent, which is 1 in 10 people.

On a personal note, as someone who has relied on Home Healthcare for my family, I know I would feel much better having more information on the persons who work for the agency that has been placed in charge of caring for my loved one. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony here today and I strongly urge passage of this bill. I would be glad to answer any question committee members may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hampton".

John Hampton